

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Press Release

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GEORGIA DOT TAKES LABOR OUT OF LABOR DAY TRAVEL

Gainesville, Ga. – To enable Georgia motorists to more easily enjoy Labor Day weekend’s figurative end of summer, the State Department of Transportation is suspending construction-related lane closures beginning at 12p.m., Friday, August 31, and extending until 5 a.m., Tuesday, September 4.

The Department reminds travelers to exercise caution nonetheless as heavy holiday traffic is expected throughout the state; crews may be still be working in proximity to highways; and safety concerns may require some long-term lane closures remain in place. Also, incident management or emergency, maintenance-related lane closures could become necessary at any time on any route.

“We’ve averaged nearly 2,000 accidents across our state during recent Labor Day weekends,” Georgia DOT District Engineer, Bayne Smith said. “On average, more than 15 people die and more than 900 are injured on Georgia roads each year during this holiday. It should be a time of rest and festivities dedicated to working men and women, not of tragedy and grief. Please be very careful and do not drive distracted or while impaired.”

The celebration of Labor Day was begun by a Boston union in 1878; it became a federal holiday 16 years later at the behest of President Grover Cleveland during a period of trade union unrest. In more recent years, it has come to symbolize the traditional end of summer vacations; the opening of political campaign activities in election years; the last day of the year in which “fashionable” women wear white; and most importantly, the beginning of the college football season.

Happy Labor Day!

The Georgia Department of Transportation continues its RoadWorks2012 construction program. As the end of summer and a new school year draw near, dozens of important roadway infrastructure improvement projects continue throughout the state. Keeping Georgia’s transportation network the nation’s finest requires continual investment and maintenance. Pardon us for this necessary inconvenience and please drive cautiously in work zones and safely at all times. For more information on Georgia DOT projects, please visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov>; you also may follow the Department on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadepoftrans>).

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